

STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR)

DIRECTORATE OF
PLAYS

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

COUNTRY LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM

DOJ DECEMBER 1971 - FEBRUARY 1972

SUBJECT 1. CONSTRUCTION OF PRISON CAMP BUNKERS FOR TWO AMERICAN PILOTS
CAPTURED IN THE PASKONG AREA

2. SIGHTING OF TWO CAPTURED AMERICAN PILOTS IN ATTOPEU

ACQ

SOURCE

1. DURING EARLY JANUARY 1972 LIEUTENANT S A I, CHIEF
TICAL OFFICER OF A PATHET LAO (PL) PRISONER OF WAR (POW)
IN SOUTHERN LAOS (UNLOCATED), TOLD A GATHERING OF LAO
THAT TWO AMERICAN PILOTS WERE CAPTURED DURING THE FIGHTING
HE PAKSONG (XB 3278) AREA IN THE LATTER PART OF DECEMBER 1971.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 20 AUG 1971

CAMP LOG #: 263

REPORT LOG #: 1253

1:50,000 Coord: L745 6238 II

1:250,000 Coord: ND 48-7 14 43.25N
106 28.55E

UTM Card: ☒

INFO Card: 2

Dia #184

Encl 184 (5-47,601/0044)

#185

(classification)

(dissem controls)

SAI SAID THAT THE TWO PILOTS PARACHUTED FROM THEIR AIRPLANE AFTER IT WAS HIT BY NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY (NVA) GUNNERS, BUT NEITHER PILOT WAS WOUNDED. SAI DID NOT GIVE THE EXACT LOCATION WHERE THE SHOOTING OCCURRED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: ACCORDING TO JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER RECORDS, AN OV10 AIRCRAFT WAS DOWNED IN THE PAKSONG AREA ON 24 DECEMBER 1971 WITH TWO PERSONNEL ON BOARD. ONE WAS LISTED AS FIRST LIEUTENANT T. R. FINN.)

2. SEVERAL DAYS FOLLOWING SAI'S SPEECH A SENIOR SOUTH LAOS PL OFFICER, GENERAL K H A M C H A N H, ARRIVED AT THE POW CAMP AND GAVE A SPEECH ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THAT GIVEN BY SAI. [REDACTED] COMMENT: KHAMCHANH PHOMMASENG HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AS SOUTH LAOS REGION HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF STAFF AND AS OPERATING IN THE ATTOPEU/SARAVANE AREAS.) IN ADDITION, GENERAL KHAMCHANH ORDERED THE POWS TO BUILD THREE LARGE BUNKERS TO HOUSE TWO AMERICAN AND 35 IRREGULAR PRISONERS WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE CAMP, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT GIVE THEIR EXPECTED DATE OF ARRIVAL. ONE BUNKER WAS COMPLETED AND THE TWO REMAINING BUNKERS WERE STILL BEING BUILT WHEN THE SEVEN LAO POWS MANAGED TO ESCAPE IN MID-FEBRUARY 1972. THE THREE BUNKERS WERE DIFFERENT IN DESIGN FROM THE OTHER BUNKERS IN THE CAMP AND WERE LOCATED ABOUT 500 METERS SOUTHWEST OF THE LAO POW QUARTERS.

3. APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS AFTER GENERAL KHAMCHANH'S SPEECH,

(classification)

(dissem controls)

ATTOPEU (XB 9737) AREA DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF T A M A K VISITED THE CAMP. IN CASUAL CONVERSATION HE TOLD SEVERAL OF THE POWS THAT FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO HIS LEAVING ATTOPEU TO COME TO THE CAMP HE HAD SEEN TWO AMERICAN PILOTS BROUGHT INTO ATTOPEU BY NVA SOLDIERS. TAMAK STATED HE SAID HELLO IN LAO TO THE AMERICANS WHO DID NOT REPLY BUT CONTINUED TO WALK WITH BOWED HEADS. TAMAK SAID THEY WERE STILL WEARING THEIR UNIFORMS AND RANK INSIGNIA AND DESCRIBED BOTH MEN AS LARGE WITH RED HAIR. TAMAK CAME TO THE CAMP FREQUENTLY TO VISIT HIS WIFE, V I A N G, WHO WAS ONE OF THE NURSES THERE.

4. THE PRISONERS BELIEVE THE CAMP WAS LOCATED WEST OF BAN SAMONG (UNLOCATED), WHICH WAS A NEWLY BUILT PL VILLAGE LOCATED ALONG A STREAM FROM THE VICINITY OF XB 580286 EAST TO THE VICINITY OF XB 610280. THE PRISONERS TRANSPORTED RICE SEVERAL TIMES FROM BAN SAMONG TO THE CAMP WHICH WAS A DAY'S WALK. THEY CROSSED SEVERAL LARGE AND SMALL STREAMS BUT COULD NOT ACCURATELY DETERMINE IN WHICH DIRECTION THEY HAD TRAVELLED OR THE DISTANCE IN KILOMETERS BECAUSE OF THE REPEATED SWITCHBACK TRAILS.

5. [REDACTED] DISSEM. EMBASSY, ARNATT, AIRATT IN VIENTIANE: SENT TO CINCPAC, ARPAC, PACAF, PACFLT, 7THAF, 7/13 AF, MACV, [REDACTED]

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CAMP LOG # 263
REPORT LOG # 1255
✓ 1:50,000 Coord: 19015 6239N
✓ 1:250,000 Coord: ND-48-21143N 106 2855E
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